

# DT

## The Jumpstart on an Elite Career

High tech, complex cutting edge systems  
and computers.



**Dental Technician  
DT**

**Dental Technicians (DT)** perform duties as assistants in the prevention and treatment of oral disease and injury and assist dental care professionals in providing dental care to Navy people and their families. They may function as clinical or specialty technicians, dental administrative personnel and dental care providers at dental treatment facilities. They also serve as battlefield technicians with the Marine Corps, rendering emergency oral/dental treatment to include initial treatment in a combat environment.

Qualified dental technicians may be assigned aboard ships, Fleet Marine Force units, Seabee units and branch dental clinics. Dental technicians normally work closely under the supervision of a Navy dental officer.

This is a five-year enlistment program.

### What They Do

#### The duties performed by DTs include:

- Assisting health care providers in the prevention and treatment of oral disease and injuries
- Preparing dental materials and medications
- Exposing and processing dental X-ray films
- Rendering emergency dental first aid
- Instructing patients in oral hygiene
- Performing dental administrative, supply and accounting procedures
- Maintaining treatment records and reports
- "Chair side" assists

### Qualified technicians

- Performing dental ceramic arts
- Fabricating dentures
- Assisting in oral surgery
- Constructing dental crowns and bridges
- Fabricating appliances for oral defects
- Preventative maintenance and repairs on dental equipment
- Performing oral prophylaxis treatment
- Performing dental administrative and clerical functions



### Credit Recommendations

The American Council on Education recommend that semester hour credits be awarded in the vocational certificate and lower-division bachelor's/associate's degree categories for courses taken in this rating on first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), dental office procedures and other dental procedures while attending "A" and "C" schools.

The U.S. Department of Labor has approved the Dental Prosthetic Technician, Dental Equipment Repair Technician and Dental Assistant trades for inclusion in the Navy's National Apprenticeship program. This program gives Navy members the opportunity to receive a national Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship, making them journeymen in their trades.

### Qualifications and Interests

A sincere interest in providing dental health care is extremely important for this rating. People in the DT rating must relate well to other people and work well as part of a team. It is important that candidates have good communication skills, writing and arithmetic ability, manual dexterity, dependability, trustworthiness, a good memory, resourcefulness, and backgrounds or interests in the sciences.

Other important qualifications are competence with tools, equipment/machines, physical stamina and the ability to do repetitive tasks without losing interest. Any illegal involvement with drugs may be disqualifying for this rating.

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### Career Path After Recruit Training

Enlistees are taught the fundamentals of this rating through formal Navy school training. Advanced technical, specialty and operational training is available in this rating during later stages of career development.

School	Present Location	Approximate Training Time	Subjects	Training Methods
Hospital Corps Class "A" School,	Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, TX.	8 Weeks	Materials and procedures used to assist dental officers	Individualized instruction and practical application

After "A" school, DTs may be assigned to Naval Dental Centers/Clinics, Naval Hospitals, Branch Dental Clinics at shore stations in the United States or overseas, dental clinics aboard ships, mobile construction battalions (Seabees) or in dental companies with the Marine Corps. If initially assigned to a Fleet Marine Force (FMF) unit or the Seabees, DTs first go to Field Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton CA, or Camp Lejeune NC, for five weeks of specialized training required to provide dental medical services in the field. During their careers in the Navy, DTs usually spend 30 percent of their time assigned to fleet units or FMF units and 70 percent to shore duty.

All personnel now receive sea pay at sea (E-1 to E-9)

### Working Environment

Dental technicians work in a variety of environments. Most DTs work indoors in hospitals or clinics. Others work aboard ships with FMF or Seabee units. Duties are service oriented, repetitive and require good judgment and mental alertness. DTs normally work closely under the supervision of a Navy dental officer.

Since Navy programs and courses are revised at times, the information contained on this rating card is subject to change.

### Opportunities

Current opportunities for placement in the DT rating are limited, except for highly qualified applicants. About 3,200 men and women serve as dental technicians and 25% of them have received further training in one of 8 sub-specialties leading to specialization in dental care technologies.

### Related Civilian Jobs—Dept. of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles, No.

Dental Assistant	079.371-010
Medical Records Clerk	245.362-010
Dental Ceramist	712.281-010
Dental Laboratory Technician	712.381-018
Surgical Technician	079.374-022
Dental Hygienists	078.361-010



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